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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 5, 10, 12, 15-18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 34, 36, 37, 41, 42, and 44-48 are objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Also in the Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 19, 22, 23, 25, 29-31, and 33-35 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 15, 16, 19, and 21-24 of co-pending application number US 2004/020833; provisionally rejected claim 9 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 15, 16, 19, and 21 of co-pending application No. US 2004/020833 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,717,524 issued to DeLine et al; rejected claims 1, 19, and 26 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 42, 43, and 45 of U.S. Patent No. 6,882,734; rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 19, 23, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLine et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,995,124 issued to Gabr and U.S. Patent No. 6,560,344 issued to Julstrom et al.; rejected claims 26, 33??, 35, 38-40, 43, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gabr in view of Julstrom.

By this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled claims 1 and 26 without prejudice and have amended claims 2-11, 13, 18, 19, 27-31, 33-35, 40, 41, 43, 44 and 48 to more clearly define the present invention. Accordingly, claims 2-25 and 27-48 remain pending.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections noted above under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting and under 35 U.S.C. §103. Nevertheless, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicants have cancelled independent claim 1 without prejudice while rewriting allowable dependent claim 10 in independent form. The claims have been amended so that claims 2-9 and 11-18 depend from allowable claim 10. Similarly, independent claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the allowable feature recited

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in claim 10. Independent claim 26 has been cancelled while allowable claim 41 has been rewritten in independent form. The claims have been amended such that claims 27-40 and 42-48 depend from claim 41. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the rejections have been rendered moot and that this Application is now in immediate condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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